

TOWN OF LINCOLN

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING

November 14, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 6:57 p.m. Commission members present were Chairman Kevin Bryson, Paul Hetu, Roy Coulombe, Erin Vaughan, Robert Sylvestre, Gary Stott and David Boyle.

Commission members reviewed the minutes from the October 10, 2007 meeting. Motion made by Gary Stott, seconded by Paul Hetu to accept the minutes from the October meeting.

Commission members reviewed the Director's report for the month of October. The commission members were inquiring as to whether or not the upcoming repairs to the skate park were due to the rash of vandalism that has taken place as of late within the parks. Erin Vaughan commented on some vandalism that occurred at Lonsdale Park. The concession stand was broken into but luckily it was empty inside and there was nothing to steal. The lock to get into the building is the only item that was ruined in the incident. The commission members also feel that the idea for a crosswalk to Fairlawn Park across Rte. 126 (Smithfield Ave.) in the vicinity of Meader Street is a very good idea.

Commissioner's Reports:

Saylesville – Paul Hetu – Nothing new to report. No activity on the

playground.

Lonsdale – Roy Coulombe – No activity.

Albion – Erin Vaughan – Everything looks good.

Manville – Robert Sylvestre – Noticed there is a sign posted that states there is no ice skating allowed. Why is there no ice skating allowed here? There was a pole that was repaired a while back but the pole still has the braces around it. These braces need to be removed due to the fact that they are a danger to the public.

Fairlawn – Gary Stott – The skate park is still being used despite the cold weather.

Limerock – David Boyle – Soccer is over. Everything looks good.

Quinnville – Kevin Bryson – Noticed that leaves have been picked up throughout the park.

Unfinished Business:

On November 1, 2007 the Town Council did not approve any bids for the Lonsdale Field renovation project. The Commission members are assuming that this project will have to go out to bid again. A major concern amongst the Commission members is how the top bidders are having problems going about the construction of the press box and concession stand. The members feel that this should be a separate project and enlist someone else to construct the press box and concession stand. A question they have is why do these buildings have to be pre-fab? Pre-fab construction of these structures is much more costly. Another concern among the Commission members is how there was not a break down in the pricing for the

field. They would like to know how much it would cost for each item, such as lights, grass, fencing etc. There is also a safety issue with not thinning out the sight line to the waters' edge. Some opinions have been fashioned that if they thin out the sight line that would make kids more susceptible to wander to the water. The Commission members feel that if the sight line is not thinned out, kids can wander away and hide and parents will have a difficult time seeing their children or knowing if they are in harms way. If a child wanders to the water and there are shrubs and bushes everywhere and the child falls into the water, no one will be able to see them. The Commission members agree that either the sight line should be thinned out or a fence should be constructed along the waters' edge for safety measures. Some of the Commission members would like to get together with John Sharkey to go over the bid specs and get an explanation as to exactly where all the money would be going for each item. They discussed possibly calling a workshop session on November 19, 2007 which would include Commission members Kevin Bryson, Roy Coulombe, and Robert Sylvestre.

The old backstop poles at Chet Nichols still have not been removed. These poles are dangerous and need to be removed as soon as possible. The sign in memory of Mr. Nichols will not be in place until spring time.

New Business:

Vehicles have been seen on the Chet Nichols field along the sidelines

during soccer games. The gates are also not being secured properly.

The front gate on the River Road side was seen wide open. These gates need to be secured in order to protect the field. In damp weather, the vehicles can cause ruts in the field and there is also a concern that these vehicles could damage the sprinklers. As it stands right now, there is no grass along the sidelines and further use of vehicles on the field will cause additional damage. There was also a fire pit inside the outfield fence during a flag football game.

The Commission members looked over an article in the Providence Journal on October 23, 2007 regarding Mayor Daniel McKee of Cumberland and a new idea as to where the town could get money from for Parks and Rec. He now proposes to borrow against the town's open-space fund instead of taking money from a portion of the town's real-estate conveyance tax. The Commission members still feel this is a good idea and will have to give this some more thought.

Motion to adjourn made by Roy Coulombe, seconded by Gary Stott.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.